

and no Democrats, OK. I don't think we need to do that in the form of an agreement, but at least the Chair would recognize we are going to do that.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I think that would be very much something we will agree to and appreciate. We have a lot to do in morning business over the course of today and tomorrow. To be able to use that time efficiently, alternating back and forth is certainly fine.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12:30 p.m., with the time to be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMEMORATING THE "COLUMBIA" ASTRONAUTS

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk on behalf of myself, Senator NELSON of Florida, Senator FRIST of Tennessee, Senator DASCHLE of South Dakota, Senator CORNYN of Texas, and Senator GRAHAM of Florida, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 45) commemorating the Columbia astronauts:

Whereas the United States of America and the world mourn the seven astronauts who perished aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia on February 1, 2003, as they re-entered Earth's atmosphere at the conclusion of their 16-day mission;

Whereas United States Air Force Colonel Rick D. Husband, Mission Commander; United States Navy Commander William "Willie" McCool, Pilot; United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Anderson, Payload Commander/Mission Specialist; United States Navy Captain David M. Brown, Mission Specialist; United States Navy Commander Laurel Blair Salton Clark, Mission Specialist; Dr. Kalpana Chawla, Mission Specialist; and Israeli Air Force Colonel Ilan Ramon, Payload Specialist were killed in the line of duty during the 113th Space Shuttle Mission;

Whereas we stand in awe of the courage necessary to break the bonds of Earth and venture into space, with full knowledge of the perils and complexities inherent in such an endeavor;

Whereas the people of the United States and the world have enjoyed rich benefits from the space program including technological advances in medicine, communications, energy, agronomy, and astronomy;

Whereas we in the Congress of the United States recognize that curiosity, wonder and the desire to improve life on Earth has inspired our exploration of space and these traits epitomize the intrinsic dreams of the human race;

Whereas, despite these lofty goals, we realize that our reach for the stars will never be without risk or peril, and setbacks will always be a part of the human experience;

Whereas we recognize our solemn duty to devote our finest minds and resources toward minimizing these risks and protecting the remarkable men and women who are willing to risk their lives to serve mankind; and

Whereas we will always hold in our hearts the seven intrepid souls of Columbia, as well as those explorers who perished before, including those aboard Apollo 1 and the Space Shuttle Challenger: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the tragedy which befell the Space Shuttle Columbia shall not dissuade or discourage this Nation from venturing ever farther into the vastness of space;

(2) today we restate our firm commitment to exploring the planets and celestial bodies of our Solar System, and beyond;

(3) we express our eternal sorrow and heartfelt condolences to the families of the seven astronauts;

(4) we convey our condolences to our friends and allies in the state of Israel over the loss of Colonel Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli in space;

(5) we will never forget the sacrifices made by the seven heroes aboard Columbia; and

(6) we shall learn from this tragedy so that these sacrifices shall not have been in vain.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, today I rise to honor the memory and the sacrifice of the seven astronauts whose lives were tragically cut short in pursuit of the newest frontier—space.

America is a word, a country, and a people. America is also a spirit, an indomitable spirit of adventure and courage, one that defies complacency and accepts challenge. The American spirit knows no bounds.

Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon also had that spirit, and so did Kalpana Chawla, who was born in India and made America her home. It is that spirit which President Kennedy harnessed in 1961 when he made the bold claim: Within a decade, America would put a man on the Moon and return him safely home.

That same spirit enabled us to fulfill a great mission and make space travel seem routine, although it was never routine.

It is that spirit which fueled the hearts and minds of those seven men and women who launched into the sky on January 6, 2003.

On Saturday, we were reminded of the high price we sometimes pay for reaching new horizons. Our thirst for knowledge led us to explore space. Our curiosity, sense of wonderment, and desire to improve life on Earth prompted

us time and again to defy the odds. Those heroes did not take their task lightly, but they undertook it with joy.

Ilan Roman, the first Israeli astronaut, who was on that fated flight, wrote the following words from space:

The world looks marvelous from up here, so peaceful, so wonderful and so fragile.

His serene vision came to a catastrophic end on Saturday morning, and that moment when the world awoke to the news that seven astronauts disappeared into the skies will be one etched in our collective memories forever.

In recent years, America has borne too much tragedy and experienced too much grief, but our collective loss still sears our souls and the pain is never easier to bear. Today, just 4 short days after they vanished into the crystal blue skies of Texas, we pause to remember them and thank them from our hearts: Rick Husband, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, Ilan Roman, William McCool, David Brown, and Michael Anderson.

And though the families' loss cannot be diminished, their pain and grief is shared around the world and our prayers are with them.

Their sacrifice will never be forgotten. Their lives were not lost in vain. We will send more brave astronauts into the cosmos to learn and discover. We will continue to explore the vast sky that envelops the Earth and their names will forever be etched into the history of space flight.

Rick Husband, a spiritual man, a Texan, the commander of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, often signed photos referencing Proverbs 3:5-6:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will direct your paths.

Throughout history, our young Nation has experienced great heartache and tragedy. Each time, we have overcome adversity with boldness and tenacity. We have come back stronger than ever.

With steely resolve and a firm determination, we rose from the ashes and embers of Ground Zero more resolute than ever before.

Christina Rossetti, the 18th century poet, wrote a poem called "Remember." She could never have envisioned what this poem would come to represent, but it did bring me some solace in this time of tragedy in my home State of Texas. She wrote:

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you planned;
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that I once had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

We will hold these seven souls in our hearts and eventually we will smile